

Monthly Progress
May 2018 Progress Report
Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
AUS OU RI/FS

Actions Taken to Comply with Consent Order

During the month of May 2018, activities of significance included:

1. Preparation of AOC mandated reports.
2. FWS circulated a revised set of responses-to-comments (RTCs) to the FS Pilot and Groundwater Risk Assessment to Shannon & Wilson (S&W), AECOM, SRS and USGS on May 21st. These RTCs included FWS updates to comments addressing issues on performing of ecological risks assessments groundwater use and ARAR policy raised by the other Agencies. FWS indicated it is discussing these specific RTCs with the Agencies during their monthly conference calls this summer. FWS also confirmed that S&W will prepare a separate natural attenuation (NA) study report when the validated results are received for incorporation into a version of the draft FS Report prior to its approval. FWS added that it estimates the FS Report will require from three months to a year before its approval through a series of revisions following submittal of the first draft planned for late summer 2018.
3. FWS scheduled a conference call for July 9, 2018 with S&W, AECOM, SRS and USGS to discuss status of the FS Report and the NA study, on May 31st.
4. S&W continued preparation of the draft FS Report.

Results of Sampling and Tests

The initial NA Study sampling event was performed the week of November 6, 2017, followed by the second event the week of January 1, 2018. The TCE cometabolism/ ¹⁴C samples were collected on March 21st, completing the field requirements for the NA Study. Preliminary results for a portion of the November event were received on January 17th, along with a second preliminary data set from the January event on March 8th. Preliminary gene results were received on April 23rd, and preliminary microorganism results were received on May 16th. Preliminary TCE cometabolism results, as well as all validated data for all results, remain outstanding.

Work Planned for the Next Two Months

During the months of June and July 2018 planned activities include:

1. S&W will continue preparation of the draft FS Report.
2. S&W will participate in the FS Report status conference call on July 9, 2018 (Item 3 above).

Problems Encountered

None.